

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 PA-02 EUR-12 /031 W
----- 099109

O R 111508Z DEC 76 ZFF6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTO 32063

FOR S/PRS FROM FUNSETH

E.O. LL652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
FAREWELL STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO
SECRETARY-GENERAL LUNS' FAREWELL STATEMENT AT NAC,
DECEMBER 10, 1976 (TEXT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
PRESS BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PUT OUT AS STATE
DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE):

QUOTE

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES FOR SOME OF THE FRIENDLY THINGS THAT WERE SAID ON MY BEHALF. SOME OF THEM HAD THE CHARACTER OF AN OBITUARY.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT AT THE END OF THE MONDALE ADMINISTRATION, I WILL ONLY BE 69 YEARS OLD AND THAT WITHOUT DOUBT JOSEPH WILL STILL BE IN THE CHAIR HERE. AND SO THE FUTURE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLOSED TO ME, JOSEPH.

I HAVE TO CORRECT A FEW THINGS JOSEPH SAID YESTERDAY. WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER IN FACT 20 YEARS. HE HAS FORGOTTEN IT BECAUSE HE DID NOT PAY ATTENTION TO INSIGNIFICANT PROFESSORS AT THE TIME. I HAD WRITTEN A BOOK OF WHICH I WAS INORDINATELY PROUD AND SOMEBODY UNCLASSIFIED

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INTRODUCED ME TO HIM IN THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL AND I

THOUGHT I HEARD HIM MUMBLE THAT I HAD JUST WRITTEN THE
MOST UNREAD BESTSELLER SINCE TOYNBEE.

AT ANY RATE, I REMEMBER MY FIRST MEETING HERE IN 1973,
AND I RECALL THERE ARE ONLY VERY FEW OF US LEFT. ON
THAT OCCASION, MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE WAS SITTING ACROSS
THE TABLE FROM ME READY TO SPRING AT ME BEFORE I HAD
EVER REACHED THE VERB IN MY SENTENCE. THE BELGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER INSISTED DESPITE ALL OF THIS THAT
THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES. MAX VAN DER STOEL WAS
DESPERATELY ATTEMPTING TO MOVE MATTERS TO A HIGHER
MORAL PLANE. AND GASTON THORN WAS INSISTING THAT IF
ONLY THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WERE RUNNING THINGS, SUCH
VULGAR DISPLAYS OF BAD TEMPER COULD NOT OCCUR. SINCE
THEN, NATO HAS GREATLY STRENGTHENED ITS COHESION.

I APPRECIATED THE COMMENTS OF JOSEPH. MAYBE WHAT MY
EUROPEAN ORIGIN HAS DONE FOR ME IS TO HELP ME UNDER-
STAND THAT NOT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE AND THAT NATIONS
CAN SUFFER TRAGEDIES IF THEY DO NOT ACT WITH WISDOM
AND DEDICATION AND FORESIGHT. THE GREATEST CHANGE THAT
HAS TAKEN PLACE IN AMERICA IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS IS
THE REALIZATION THAT WE TOO NOW ARE INEXTRICABLY PART
OF A WORLD IN WHICH OUR CHOICES AND NOT SIMPLY OUR
RESOURCES DETERMINE OUR FUTURE. THIS IS WHY I FEEL
THAT THIS GROUP, WHICH HAS JUST NOW GONE THROUGH ONE OF
ITS ANNUAL EXERCISES, HAS A PROFOUND MORAL RESPONSIBIL-
ITY.

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF FREEDOM, BUT
WE ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF FREEDOM. IT
IS THIS GROUP OF JUST A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES OF HUMANE
INSTITUTIONS THAT NOW REPRESENTS THE CONSCIENCE OF FREE
MEN. THIS IS WHY MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU HAS MEANT SO
MUCH TO ME AND WHY I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE COMMENTS
YOU HAVE ALL MADE. THANK YOU.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO32063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-0006
From: SECRETARY LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761251/aaaabry.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FAREWELL STATEMENT FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO
TAGS: OVIP, NATO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (LUNS, JOSEPH M A H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006